

THE TIMES

President Nixon admits he withheld information in his part in cover-up

President Nixon admitted yesterday that he had withheld information at the Watergate. He confessed he had discussed "political aspects" of a cover-up nine months before he had previously claimed to have learnt of it.

Lawyers had been arguing his case with information that was

Impeachment recognized as a foregone conclusion

By Fred Emery
LONDON, Aug 5

President Nixon today confirmed ordering an initial inquiry into the Watergate investigation to protect his 1972 re-election campaign.

A new statement that

led close to desperation, he

realized that his impeachment

was "a foregone conclusion".

But he pleaded

"in its very" did not justify his

oval from office, and he

recessed "trust" that this

directive would prevail in the

trial. Mr Nixon said he

was sorry for his "serious act

mission".

The President announced the

date of the trial and submission to the

Senate of Representatives of

the "raw" transcripts of tape

recordings of conversations he

had on June 23, 1972, four days

before the Watergate break-in.

Mr H. R. Haldeman, his

chief of Staff, now his indicted

co-conspirator, admitted that these tapes

were "at variance" with his

previous statements. They pre-

pared "problems". None of his

co-conspirators knew about them. The

co-conspirator pleaded to being ini-

tially unaware of "implications"

might now have. He re-

lated providing information was "incomplete and in

it respects erroneous".

He wanted the House to have

it for consideration in the

impeachment debate.

Mr Nixon said he had found

other "major inconsisten-

cy" between his continuing

use of the 64 tapes the

Senate Committee ordered him to

re-examine his previous state-

ments, but he did not rule out

the possibility.

But since that review could

not be completed in time for

the House debate he proffered

to the Senate everything from

the tapes the judge had ruled

relevant to the coming Water-

gate trial of "Mr John Mitchell

et al".

The White House spokesman said there would be no further

comment or explanation today on Mr Nixon's statement and

the words of the transcript. The

statement is quite extraordinary

in the history of the American

Presidency.

Mr Nixon focuses on one

small item he has already admitted

to covering up; his order in

June 1972 that the investigation of

the bugging break-in should

not somehow expose CIA operations

or what have become known as the "Plumbers".

On May 22, 1973, Mr Nixon

professed that this was done

entirely for "national security

reasons". Last May he said

there must have been "mis-

understandings" because a

cover-up developed instead "to

conceal the possible involve-

ment of members of the Adminis-

tration and the campaign com-

mittee". He added: "I was not

aware of any such efforts at the

time."

Despite the fact that he has

already professed to have told

"it all", it is that statement,

he confesses, that the new tapes

show to be less than the truth.

Referring to his instructions

for the CIA-FBI coordination

he admits: "The June 23 tapes

clearly show, however, that at

the time I gave those instruc-

tions I also discussed the politi-

cal aspects of the situation, and

that I was aware of the advan-

tages this course of action

would have in respect to limit-

ing possible public exposure of

involvement by persons con-

nected with the reelection com-

mittee."

In other words, "Operation

Underdog" has begun, with the

President having portrayed him-

self as such last Friday.

Earlier in the day, the deputy

Republican leader in the Senate

urged the President to resign and

said he believed Mr Nixon

would see resignation as the

most appropriate way out for

the nation and himself.

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HOME NEWS

Tories and Labour wooing Ulster Unionists, MP says

From Robert Fisk
Belfast

The official Unionist Party of Northern Ireland yesterday criticized the Prime Minister for what it called "a naive, ill-timed, ill-considered ranting" about its parliamentary connections with the Conservative Party; but there was no suggestion that the Unionists had tried to reach an agreement with the Tories to support them in a new Parliament in return for more seats.

The Unionists said that between 70 and 80 Conservative members had formed a Northern Ireland group in the Commons under the chairmanship of Mr Philip Goodhart, MP for Brackley, Beckenham. The group met every Wednesday when Parliament was sitting to discuss matters of interest with Unionists; Mr Harry West, the Unionist leader, attended many of the meetings and had been principal speaker several times.

"It is hard to see how the concern expressed by this group for Ulster can be saved by being ignored again by Mr Heath during an election period," the Unionists said. "Mr Wilson's remarks on Sunday, when he again showed his extreme bigotry against the Ulster majority, cannot serve to damp the support for Unionists among the Ulster group, and even further alienate, including the Labour and Liberal parties."

"Mr Wilson's remarks on reflection by his may rank as a further example of his abusive, ill-timed ill-considered rantings, such as his description of the Ulster majority as spongers. Mr Wilson's disregard for the democratically expressed wishes of the Ulster majority must rank him personally as a threat to peace and stability in this province."

The Unionists seem to enjoy being the centre of attention—Mr James Kilfedder, MP for Down, North, said his party was being wooed by both Tories and Labour. They must have been delighted by a further comment made on local BBC television last night by Mr John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for

Dealer who sold reject tyres fined £1,950

From Our Correspondent
Reading

A dealer who sold imported reject car tyres was fined a total of £1,950 with costs yesterday at Reading Crown Court under the Trade Descriptions Act.

In April last year, the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association gave a warning that such tyres, from Italy and Germany, were intended for use only on agricultural and slow-moving vehicles with a low maximum speed limit.

The court was told yesterday that manufacturing faults such as inconsistency in the thickness of the rubber, foreign bodies in the original rubber mix and bad joins could have led to "wobbling", loss of stability and reduction of the tyres' adhesion to the road surface.

John Hannington, aged 39, of Chestnut Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire, pleaded guilty to 13 charges. The radial tyres involved were made by CEAT of Italy and Metzeler of Germany.

Mr Anthony Payne, for the prosecution, said that from the middle of 1972 until early 1973 Berkshire County Council consumer protection department received several complaints from people who bought the tyres from one or other of Mr Hannington's companies.

"There has never been any secret of the fact that the Unionists would like wider representation at Westminster," he added.

The wish for this—which is supported in the Kilbrandon report—has been there for years and years. It is also perfectly plain that we in the Conservative Party welcome their support in the division lobbies."

Our Political Staff writes: There is no evidence at Westminster that the Unionists tried to arrange a deal with the Conservatives. On the contrary, Mr William Craig is said to have told one of the meetings that rather than assist the return of a Conservative government he preferred things as they were; he is understood to have found Mr Rees, the Secretary of State, more realistic than Mr Whitelaw.

Worldwide exchange of facts on bombers

From Robert Fisk
Belfast

Arms and bomb-disposal experts in Europe and America have built up an international library of information about the bombs and weapons used by terrorists in at least 22 countries. Details of the explosives used by guerrilla groups as far apart as Italy, Northern Ireland and the United States, together with the methods employed in neutralizing their bombs, are being circulated regularly among security forces by Interpol.

The Army in Ulster is shortly to receive reports on the Paris car bomb explosions last Friday and on the railway disaster in Italy on Sunday when a bomb, planted apparently by fascist extremists, killed 12 people. By a reciprocal arrangement, police in every Nato country have been able to study documents drawn up by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in Northern Ireland giving precise details of the bombs and weapons used by Provisional IRA and "loyalist" extremists.

The files contain scientific data from international police laboratories, and the Army in Northern Ireland receives its own copies from the Ministry of Defence. The British contribution to the library includes details of the gradual complexity of IRA bombs, timing mechanisms, booby traps, pressure switches and other homemade chemicals so that foreign police forces are able to defuse similar bombs in their own countries.

Collecting information on that scale is not easy. England and Ulster, as well as the United States and Canada, may be able to trace links between various revolutionary groups. The Provisional IRA, for example is

known to have had direct contact with Arab guerrilla movements, although so far the use of the Soviet-manufactured RTG 7 rocket-launcher is the only factor the two have in common.

In Dublin, there are rumours that IRA men have also been in contact with Breton nationalists and extremists who have been setting off bombs on the French-Italian border. The IRA has shown little advance recently in its own weapons in Northern Ireland and it continues to use home-made mortars together with its two-year-old rocket launchers. But the Army still finds that four fifths of the commercial explosives and detonators used in Northern Ireland by the Provisionals come from the Irish Republic.

Several explosives discovered in the past few months by the British Army bear the name of Irish Industrial Explosives, a factory with headquarters in the Dublin suburb of Enfield. The company sells under licence from ICI and the explosives evidently reach the IRA through customers.

In Belfast yesterday 11 of the 28 men and women arrested over the weekend by the Army in the city on suspicion of being IRA officers were served with interim custody orders and sent to the Maze prison at Long Kesh. Ten others were released and eight more, some of whom may also be held without trial, were still being held at the Welfare Staff Return. Welfare workers at the Maze prison resumed full duties yesterday after five days. The Provisional IRA had previously withdrawn allegations that some of them were helping Army intelligence to find out what the restrictions were.

Mr Hannington was fined £150 on each of the 13 charges. After his release, Mr Colin Kiwan, a senior district consumer protection department, said: "Apart from the isolated case we have heard nothing about these tyres for nine months or so. We have no evidence of their causing accidents but the risk is high."

Surprise defeat for Nunn in British chess

From Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent
Clacton-on-Sea

The first round of the British chess championship at Clacton yesterday saw some interesting play out of which for the most part the recognized leading players emerged triumphant. Brian Eley, the former British champion, had a quick and easy win over R. Webb, but shortly afterwards the latter's brother, S. Webb, made up for that by beating Verbury.

Perhaps the only surprise was Nunn's loss to Knox but the northern player fully deserved to win.

Results, round one: R. Webb 9; S. Webb 1; Clarke 1; Ludgate 2; Knox 1; Nunn 0; Stein 1; Mabb 1; Holloway 1; Verbury 0; Hempson 1; Wilson 1; Hartston 1; White 1; Spearman 1; Harston 1; Horner 0; Perkins 1; Metzel 1; Lightfoot 0; Lemon 0; Law 1; Bellis 1; Penrose 0. The games between S. Webb and Brian Eley, and between S. Webb and Thomas and Bennett all adjourned.

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Results, British Women's championship: Miss F. Hutchinson 0; Miss Clarke 1; Miss Simmack 1; Miss Coward 0; Miss Mabb 1; Miss M. Hutchinson 1; Miss Haberton 0; Mrs Hartston 1; Miss Higgins 1; Miss Povall 3; Miss Jackson 1; Mrs Hindle 0.

Many shop prices still show little sign of VAT cuts but explanations abound

By Diana Geddes

A week after the coming into force of the 2 per cent cut in value-added tax announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his mini-Budget, there is little or no change in the prices of goods in many shops.

Most shopkeepers said they were still waiting for new stock with VAT-adjusted prices. In the meantime they were taking 1p to 2p in the pound off old stocks, or making large reductions on selected items.

When I revisited a south London shopping centre yesterday I found that prices had changed little from when they were last Monday when I made my first check. But there were changes in explanations for failure to make reductions.

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In the British Women's championship Mrs Hartston, the champion, opened confidently with a sure win against Miss Haberton.

Results, British Women's championship: Miss F. Hutchinson 0; Miss Clarke 1; Miss Simmack 1; Miss Coward 0; Miss Mabb 1; Miss M. Hutchinson 1; Miss Haberton 0; Mrs Hartston 1; Miss Higgins 1; Miss Povall 3; Miss Jackson 1; Mrs Hindle 0.

A motorist banned from driving as a condition of his bail pending trial on a drinking and driving charge was still liable to the full 12-month disqualification on being convicted, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

The court agreed in dismissing an appeal by a learner driver, Mr Emmanuel Kwanwe, aged 37, a press operator, of Tooting, London, against his 12-month ban and a £5 fine imposed in January. Mr Kwanwe had admitted driving with an excess of alcohol in his blood.

Lord Chalfont, president of the day of the National Eisteddfod of Wales, which opened at Carmarthen yesterday, said the time had come for a great effort to make the dream of a Welsh national arts centre come true.

"Only in Wales, the land of song, are we without an opera house, a concert hall, or a theatre which can provide a home for our national talents and also attract the great musicians, singers and actors of the world," he said.

Lord Chalfont, Welsh born, is learning to speak Welsh in a crash course similar to one



Bedmaking in a ward: volunteers who answered an appeal to take the place of nurses at Highcroft mental hospital, Birmingham, where a 24-hour unofficial strike began yesterday

Council's 10% budget rise may be general

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Although the Government has advised local authorities to plan "nil growth" budgets for next year, the Conservative-controlled Westminster City Council last night announced a revenue budget forecast for 1975-76, which is a tenth more than for the present year.

Alderman Hugh Cubitt, leader of the council, told the council that there was no reason to think that the pattern of expenditure in the Greater London Council or any of the other precepting authorities would show a smaller increase than that of Westminster.

The only circumstance I see that would prevent this situation from materializing would be if central government were to make a

Part of the insidious nature of these tyres is that an innocent person may have one of these things for some time without knowing it."

Mr Payne said the CEAT tyres were originally stamped Traiano Agricola by the manufacturers, indicating that they should be used only for horse drawn or tractor-drawn farm vehicles. The Metzeler tyres were marked with a speed limit of either 30 or 80 kilometres an hour.

"Though no one who bought these had an accident, these were found to be in a dangerous condition," Mr Payne said.

A consumer protection department inspector saw Mr Hannington, who told him he got the Metzeler tyres from a man whose name he did not know, Mr Payne added. Mr Hannington bought 725 CEAT tyres in 1971 from Feltham Tyre and Rubber Company, Green Lane, Feltham.

Mr Andrew Rankin, QC for Mr Hannington, said that none of the tyres had ever been the subject of any complaint to his client or his staff. There was no evidence that the tyres were dangerous but he accepted that he should have checked. He described Mr Hannington as the "innocent dupe" of whoever imported the tyres.

"Someone, somewhere, set into circulation 2,000 CEAT tyres which were in truth wolves in sheep's clothing and to the uninformed there is nothing at all wrong with them."

Judge Blomfield told Mr Hannington that with his considerable knowledge of tyres and because he knew that re-tying tyres meant different things, it was incumbent on him to find out what the restrictions were.

Mr Hannington was fined £150 on each of the 13 charges. After his release, Mr Colin Kiwan, a senior district consumer protection department, said: "Apart from the isolated case we have heard nothing about these tyres for nine months or so. We have no evidence of their causing accidents but the risk is high."

or, better still, by some other means to transfer the cost of some major service from the ratepayer to the taxpayer," he said.

Unless something of the sort was done, "the ratepayers of this city, and of the country as a whole, are going to face rate bills that exceed anything they have hitherto even contemplated."

"This will not be because of local government extravagance, as many central government politicians would have the public believe, but because of the working of economic and other forces quite beyond fiscal control."

Mr Cubitt said Westminster was already committed to about 4 per cent of the forecast increase of 10 per cent because of new legislation, projects in hand, and high interest rates for important capital projects.

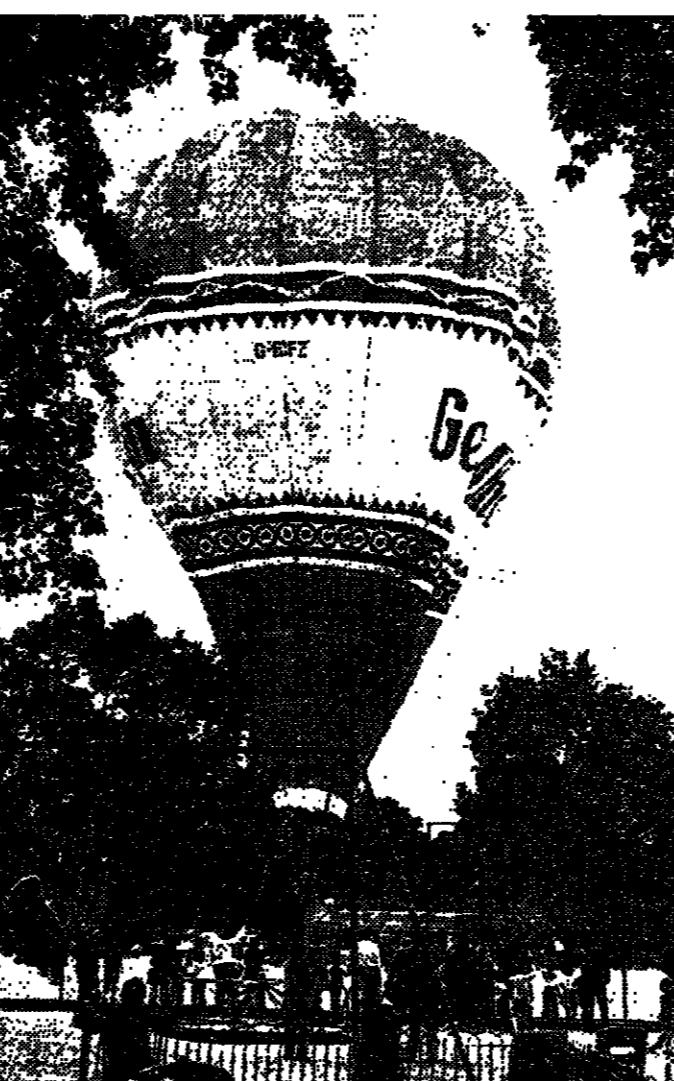
"To eliminate the other 6 per cent would, in our judgment, involve an unacceptable reduction in services for the public good."

Mr Cubitt said the council would be able to absorb some immediate increases in expenditure this year without having to levy a supplementary rate, "albeit at considerable expense to our balance."

Rate increase: Ratepayers in the London borough of Bromley face an estimated 5.3 per cent increase next year. The council said last night that the rise would make this year's 21 per cent increase for domestic ratepayers seem small. It added that a similar situation probably faced all other London boroughs.

The council attributes the situation to inflation, running at 25 per cent instead of the 15 per cent it budgeted for. No further spending will be permitted on projects not already approved and no new council posts or vacancies will be filled until further notice. A meeting is to be sought with the Secretary of State for the Environment to ask him what action he contemplates on increased rate support grants.

Leading article, page 13



Children watching yesterday as a hot air balloon, built at a workshop for the blind in Bristol, is inflated at Coram Fields, London. It can carry 30 people.

Nude man ran in front of Princess

By Michael Baily

Instead of waiting five years for a council house, a growing number of homeless people in Islington, London, are getting attractive flats within a year through a self-help action group they have formed.

It selects suitable houses coming on the market, buys and converts them with the help of a housing association and the local council, then allocates them to its own members according to need and the work they have put in for the benefit of the group.

Formed only two years ago as the Holloway Tenant Cooperative, it already has 30 houses occupied or in process of conversion and will have more than a hundred by the end of the year. Well over two hundred families have joined the cooperative, which is growing at the rate of about one a month.

By taking its housing difficulties into its own hands, the Islington cooperative is getting something more than housing. Its multiracial membership works enthusiastically together not only on providing homes but increasingly on social issues and activities for the neighbourhood in which it operates.

Two West Indian wives, who were the first to be housed by the group a year ago, have since qualified as play-leaders and opened a children's play-

group in a local church hall. Outings and social functions are also arranged.

There are only two projects of this kind operating so far in Britain (the other is in Liverpool) but in the light of recent Government statements encouraging action along these lines many more may spring up in the months ahead.

They also serve as a valuable incentive for community action, giving people a real influence over their own affairs instead of waiting passively for "them" to provide.

The scheme operates through a tripartite arrangement between the cooperative, the Circle 33 Housing Trust, which buys the houses and retains the freehold, and the borough of Islington, which finances the scheme and retains 75 per cent nomination rights for tenancies. In practice, however, all tenancies are arranged by the cooperative, with vetting rights for 75 per cent by the council.

Another early tenant, also a West Indian, has now become full-time paid coordinator on a grant of £2,000 a year provided by the Rowtree Trust, and Shelter, the housing charity, finances a second helper.

Circle 33 has just agreed to hand over to the cooperative a third of the grants it receives for the dwellings in recognition of the management functions it performs.

Self-help action group speeds housing provision

By Michael Baily

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WEST EUROPE



Remains of the French car after the bomb it carried exploded in front of the Iberia offices in central Brussels.

Spanish offices the target of Brussels bombs

From David Cross

Brussels, Aug 5
Three passers-by were injured today in a fresh series of bomb attacks on Spanish offices in Brussels. Leaflets in French and Spanish found by police near the bombed offices were signed by the Gari, the Spanish action group which last month attacked the caravan of the Tour de France cycle race in the Pyrenees.

The worst explosion occurred just after 9 am outside the office of Iberia, the Spanish airline, in central Brussels. Three bystanders were injured, one of them seriously. The bomb had been placed in a parked Renault 16 car, registered in the south-east of France. The explosion shattered windows over a wide area and badly damaged two other cars parked near by.

Earlier, three other bombs damaged offices belonging to the Spanish National bank in other parts of the city. One of the charges was concealed in an open can and the other two were placed close to the buildings themselves, behind shrubs and in a tin can. All three explosions caused only slight damage.

The wave of terrorist attacks was the second to be directed at Spanish buildings in Belgium this year. In May a bomb left in a parked car badly damaged the same Iberia office in Brussels, and similar explosive charges were discovered by police in Liège and Antwerp. Repairs to the Brussels office of Iberia had been completed only recently.

In brief

French asylum for kidnappers

Paris,

Aug 5

—Two members

of the Quebec Liberation Front

who took part in the 1970 Montreal kidnapping of Mr James Cross, British Diplomat, arrived here from Cuba.

Jacques and Louise Cossette-Trudel, and their month-old daughter, immediately applied for political asylum. They were granted permission to stay in France for a month while their application was studied.

Priests' protest

Zaragoza,

Aug 5

—Thirty-four

Catholic priests today resigned

from their posts in the Zaragoza

diocese to support the Rev. Wili-

bero Delso who was recently

dismissed by their archbishop

for creating "religious and

moral unrest".

Austrian landslide

Vienna,

Aug 5

—At least two

people were killed last night

when a landslip buried three

cars on a mountain road near

Salzburg. Two bodies were re-

trieved from one car. One car is

still missing—Agence France

Presse.

Dutch jail wrecked

Groningen,

Aug 5

—About 20

prisoners, protesting against

the removal of three inmates

to another institution, set fire

to Groningen prison in Holland

last night after wrecking every-

thing in the building.

Cuban leader in Spain

Madrid,

Aug 5

—Señor Raul

Roa, the Cuban Foreign Minis-

ter, arrived here today from

Havana to begin a tour of

eastern and western Europe.

£100,000 bank raid

Malmo,

Aug 5

—Three

armed men robbed a bank de-

posit box in Burlo, southern

Sweden, today taking at least

£100,000.

Dutch

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Tall story

August is the month of the Tall Ships when

magnificent square-riggers and schooners from Italy,

Poland, Russia, Britain, France, Holland and the

United States can be seen in all their majestic

splendour.

See them all as they sail through the pages of

Ships Monthly, which is previewing the event with

the wealth of lavish photographs it deserves.

Also this month: features on Shackleton's

historic ship

The Quest, and The Repulse, one of

Britain's best known battle cruisers. Plus the

second course of a feast of North Atlantic

nostalgia: our study of the giant liners who battled

for the Blue Riband.

For every lover of the sea

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monthly

August issue

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newsagent's now 30p

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OVERSEAS

IS strategic port seen as a major target of offensive by communists in South Vietnam

Huynh, Aug 5.—The small strategic port of Da Nang on the central coast of South Vietnam may emerge as one of the main targets of the communist offensive. It is reported that military sources here said.

South Vietnamese Rangers early today recaptured two of the 11 outposts lost on the approaches to Da Nang at the weekend.

Field officers said two battalions of Rangers of about 800 men retook the posts three miles south-east of the district capital of Duc Duc, which has been threatened by communist forces for 21 days, and succeeded in reinforcing Duc Duc itself.

President Thieu said today that the communist command had launched widespread attacks across the country in preparation for a general offensive.

He told about 30,000 people gathered for the sixth anniversary of the founding day of the People's Self-Defence Force that the communists were taking advantage of the difficulties of South Vietnam's allies because "they think the allies can no longer help us".

President Thieu compared the present situation to that in 1968 when the communist command launched the Tet (Vietnamese New Year) offensive. "We are not living in the same time of 1968," he said. "If we are not strong enough, we will allow the communists to repeat the 1972 offensive once again, and that would be a major disaster for the nation."

The 1972 Easter offensive led to the signing of the peace agreement in January, 1973. Mr Dung Dinh Thao said: "South Vietnam, pushed by the United States, has unleashed the fighting. We are fighting back to protect our people and our areas."—UPI.

Argentina's Perón is proving her worth under ever-present threat of persistent terrorism

Argentine routine of political murder

On Aug 5, one of Argentina's leading political figures, in a newspaper, *La Opinion*, has said that political murder in Argentina has become "a form of natural death".

It quoted the former President, at Lanusse, at the funeral of one of his former ministers, as having said: "Good-bye doctor, or we also know . . . may be it won't be for long . . ."

On July 15, the former Minister, Señor Arturo Moro, was shot dead in an Italian restaurant on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. Two days later, in La Plata, the police raided a guerrilla safe house and found lying in a room, the body of a conservative newspaper publisher.

On Saturday, an unknown political group, calling itself "soldiers of Perón Montoneros", possibly a latter group of the left-wing terrorist Montoneros, paraded a communiqué in Córdoa, claiming responsibility for the assassination in Buenos Aires on Wednesday of Señor Moro.

Señor Moro, left member of Parliament.

The group said that Señor Moro was "executed" for misusing the name of General Perón in connection with left-wing ideologies.

It said that other "left-wing" would be treated in a similar fashion. Señor Moro was the forty-year-old politician assassinated in the past 10 months.

At Señor Moro's funeral on Friday the police arrested 380 people, representing revolutionary left-wing groups, each carrying their respective banners, including the dawd guerrillas of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRP).

Of those arrested 77 have been released. Legal pro-

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Appointments Vacant also on page 10

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The little ones may prove to be the giants of Fleet Street's battle for survival

When Mr Rupert Murdoch bought the *Sun* and cut it down to tabloid size, he described the new, smaller format as one to which more and more newspapers would be converting during the seventies—adding that even the heavier, serious newspapers might adopt smaller pages in the eighties.

Associated Newspapers, with the shining example of the *Sun's* revitalization before them, based the *Daily Mail's* new lease of life on the tabloid format, after killing off the sickly *Daily Sketch* which must have proved that there was no magic ingredient in the half-page size. What the change did was to generate a new spirit at Associated. Management got behind the new paper with rather more generosity than it had shown during the *Mail's* bad years, while journalists, administration and advertisement staff found themselves with something new to talk about and to work for.

Depression lifted in the *Mail* offices and the fight for survival was waged with fervour and to good effect. The rot was stopped, and circulation began to rise. In the first half of this year, the *Mail* was selling 65,000 copies a day more than for the corresponding period in 1973. Change had worked.

A need for change at the *Evening News* has been obvious for two or three years, and the decision to make it a tabloid in September seemed the obvious one to observers of the scene. Even so, there was a good deal of heart-searching in Associated before the final announcement. After all, the change would sacrifice the *News's* individuality vis-à-vis the *Evening Standard* which had become the advertisers' favourite.

The *Evening News* lost readers and money. Its financial loss up to the end of last March, popularly guessed to be in the region of £1.2m, turned out to be a good deal higher than that while still managing to fall short of the dreaded £1.5m. Meanwhile, the wage bills were climbing high (£500,000 added on the *News* alone last year) while newsprint costs were soaring along with those of every other publisher. Redundancies and a streamlined production approach had become essential.



Rupert Murdoch: Leading the tabloid revolution

Whether London can actually support two evening newspapers is a moot point, especially as most daily papers used to build up readership in buyers, but at least the evening paper prices do not show on the weekly or monthly account which can be so adversely affected by increases in the prices of delivered papers. The evening paper buyer has temptation thrust at him on every street corner without looking at the written proof of what his reading costs him to give him pause and to encourage him to consider cutting his order.

The battle should do much for both newspapers for a time. The struggle will not be the cause of death, if death there be. The cause would lie in the costs and whether the parent company is able to carry them. The change in the *News* is welcome because it is an example of Fleet Street's ability to fight back rather than to face closure fatalistically.

If the *Mail* can actually get back to break-even after all its vicissitudes, there is much hope for the *News*.

The *News* did something for IPC that the *Sunday People* staff welcomed as the fruition of their hopes. It turned the *Sunday People* into a tabloid.

The *People* was printed under contract on Associated presses. The limited success of the tabloid *Sunday Mirror* against the *People's* slide, despite sporadic come-backs, had much to do with the welcome for a tabloid size. In any case, the majority felt the change to be overdue, for the *People* had been scheduled to go tabloid 18 years ago.

The cynics—and who can blame them?—see the changes as indications that the way is being prepared for merger of the two Sundays (*Mirror* and *People* in the IPC group) and of the two evenings in their rival groups. But most of us are not cynics and see in the moves a welcome fight for healthy survival that will postpone some of the mergers which are in the long-term as inevitable in Fleet Street as in many another stricken industry today.

"That's no longer the traditional chill wind blowing down Fleet Street", one newspaper managing director commented. "It's a howling hurdy chapp."

Photo-composition must come.

Whether it is done in or out of London, its economics are attractive; but they are so only

as long as they go with rational, infinitely leaner staffing arrangements. Thus the Odmans row has not been cheering or encouraging. If the entire Odmans plant can be shut down because a couple of warring unions cannot decide whose members should handle headlines and sub-heads at what stage of production, then what hope might there be for investment in progress?

The Odmans row and last-minute reprieve before total shutdown could give Fleet Street yet another excuse to shelve modernization, something it has been doing for far too long. On the other hand, the stoppages of the major victims—four major women's magazines in the first rank and many others in the second rank—has probably liberated some spending money and postponed newspaper cancellations at a time when that newsgroup's bill began to look alarming.

Cover prices, which are only now getting to anything like logical levels, have so far not been much resisted by readers, which is probably a far healthier sign of Fleet Street's popularity than an overall rise in the circulations of more than half the titles. The horror that it, changes in the composing room are better value, though hardly cheap.

Photo-composition must come. Whether it is done in or out of London, its economics are attractive; but they are so only

as long, are all doing better in every way, including financially; and although their profit or break-even spills will become fewer and shorter in the years ahead, their losses are so substantially reduced as to encourage staff and management. The Beaufort book situation is still worrying since the *Daily Express* is going to need a great deal of financial support from its sister papers. The *Daily Telegraph*, too, has to carry another paper, *The Sunday Telegraph*. Always a steady gainer of sales and in demand among advertisers, *The Daily Telegraph* has been badly hit by industrial action. So far, readers come loyalty back after being without their paper but such action does test their loyalty overmuch.

Change must come, however reluctantly. The alternative is too grim. It will not be easy to sacrifice the "creative" or "exciting" elements of news papers but it will be a lot less easy to live with closures. Government subsidies are not only not the answer but are likely to cramp and stultify the press even more.

There must be a plateau of readers ready to bear such increases; and with circulations slipping as they may, advertising rates are hard to raise. Higher advertisement rates will probably reduce the volume of bookings even more than higher cover prices knock sales. Industry's profits are falling and their costs are rising in the same sort of scale as those of the newspaper industry.

Television, a high-cost medium, suffered a shortfall of 12.37 per cent in the first half of this year as against the first six months of 1973 (bookings fell from £77.2m to £67.6m). Even allowing for the effect of the television early shut-down this was a shock. By June, the decline had picked up and the outlook was better. But the prospect for costlier newspaper space is discouraging.

Advertising expenditure in British regional papers went up by 36 per cent in 1973 to £256m while national newspapers got £160m (for infinitely fewer titles at higher prices each). Even more significantly, the regional press won 29 per cent of the nation's total advertising expenditure, putting television down to second place with 24 per cent, while national newspapers got 18.3 per cent.

The scene is not entirely gloomy. The *Mail*, *Guardian* and *Times*, for example, which have been under a cloud for

Importance of preserving choice in education

The Conservatives have decided that education should be one of the main issues in the next general election. Mr Norman St John-Stevens, their new education spokesman, has lost no time in broadcasting his views on the subject. Gone is the flamboyant, exotic image of a former Minister for the Arts. Abandoned temporarily is the great work editing the speeches and writings of his hero Walter Bagehot.

Instead his office in Abbey Gardens, opposite the House of Commons, is now stocked full of correspondence and written speeches, as he works against the clock to provide his party with a radical shift in education policy based on the rights of parents and on a determination to allow their fears about declining standards in schools by raising the quality of education.

His main proposals include a circular to preserve good schools of all kinds; amending the 1944 Education Act to strengthen the rights of parents and the setting up of appeals tribunals for parents who are dissatisfied with decisions made by their local education authorities.

He plans a national inquiry into the success of comprehensive schools to take about nine months and to expand the central force of her Majesty's inspectors of schools. They will be asked to carry out a national inquiry into numeracy and literacy and to set basic standards to which schools can conform and which teachers can use as a yardstick.

He also hopes to improve teacher training so that teachers are better equipped to deal with indiscipline in schools, and to teach reading and mathematics. He intends to see that parents have greater opportunities to influence the way schools are run by participating on governing bodies and parent-teacher associations. He hopes the status and morale of the teaching profession will be raised by better pay with more encouragement for career teachers, and by the establishment of a general teachers' council.

Mr Reg Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was reported in *The Times* yesterday as saying that the Conservative promises to introduce parental choice of schools were phoney.

Mr St John-Stevens concedes that parents will never have an absolute choice. But he says:

"We are advocating a much wider concept which includes choice as well as parents' rights. We can at least see that there is a diversity of schools for them to choose from. We want them to be able to choose between grammar and comprehensive schools, single-sex and mixed schools. The differences between our policies is that the Socialists want to extinguish such choice as there is because of crazy ideological and so-called egalitarian principles, and we want to preserve such choice as there is and find new ways of extending it."

He believes that comprehensive and grammar schools can coexist harmoniously. He cites his own constituency of Chelmsford and says: "We have two grammar schools coexisting with two comprehensives. It is by no means the case that parents want their children to go exclusively to the grammar schools. Many of them want their children to go to the comprehensives, and some cannot get their children into them."

Mr St John-Stevens says Labour's plans for making all authorities go completely comprehensive would confine parental choice to the neighbourhood school. "We are against building iron curtains around schools. We shall review the arrangements of zoning areas around schools. They were never intended by the 1944 Education Act to be rigid."

Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

The case for not doing what might come naturally

Bernard Levin

not to raise the siege unless he was sorry.

Is it too far-fetched a notion to think that the action of the Australian trades unionists has certain curious, and ominous, resemblances to the action of the hospital workers? I am not referring to the hypocrisy, though it would be hard to say whether that of Australian trades leaders pretending to be indignant because a singer has been rude to the press is more than a farce. The *Emperor Caligula* did literally anything he felt like, and when, in so doing, he had done enough harm, he was unceremoniously killed; that is not an extreme form of the principle I have adumbrated, as regards both the behaviour and the action of the countervailing force, but the example is less important than the principle.

What I am talking about is the abuse of power. The hospital workers ("Their colour television sets will have to go") and the Australian unionists ("He'll never get out of Australia") were only doing what has been done by human beings throughout history; that is, doing something for no better reason than that it was possible for them to do it. But the whole course of

human history shows, if it shows anything at all, that the maintenance of civilization depends upon the willingness of human beings to refrain from doing many things that it is possible for them to do, and that, when they forget this truth, sooner or later a power arises, or is created, or combines, to remind them of it.

When that ceased to be true, when the use of their power by trades unions began to take different forms, when an element of vindictiveness, lawlessness, oppressiveness entered into the use of power in this field, it began to be widely felt that it was time for a countervailing power to be created and exercised elsewhere in society. That power was to be the power of law, and Mr Wilson's Government proposed to bring the acts of the unions within the ambit of the law. (I am aware that some people in and around the Labour Party, notably Lady Caxton, now genuinely believed that this never happened, that there never was any such document as *In Place of Strife*, nor any proposal to enact legislation on the basis of it.) Mr Wilson, faced with the resolute refusal of the trades unions to be brought within the law, surrendered to them, and shortly afterwards Mr Heath's Government

tried the same thing, with results too recent even to need summarizing.

On all hands, we now hear increasingly vehement demands for the power of the trades unions to be curbed, for stringent measures, for—as a last resort—the brutal discipline of economic recession to be applied. The power, it is argued, is being abused, such episodes (trivial in themselves but of immense symbolic significance) as the hospital row and the Sinafra fracas being only representative samples of the apparently uncontrollable power of the trades unions and the wrongful use of that power. Men are driven from their jobs because they will not join a union, or join the "wrong" union; firms are forced into bankruptcy because a director has created union bosses with insufficient respect; men like Mr Alan Law are allowed to institute private satrapies, determining who shall work where, and who shall not work at all; violent intimidation increases; and the search for a countervailing power, even if it has to take the form of some kind of authoritarian regime, goes on, and grows ever more intense. I believe, however, that the desire to find such a power in such a form is profoundly mistaken; that those who search for it are seeking the end of the rainbow, and that it is in a different direction altogether that the restoration of the balance of power must be sought. I shall explain what I mean on Friday.

It is not a coincidence, nor does it merit special indignation or rebuke, that among the chief wielders, and abusers, of power in advanced societies today are the trades unions. Trades unions in Britain grew up to provide precisely the kind of countervailing power against the industrial employers that I am talking about; the industrialists had the power of the trades unions to protect them; they succeeded in doing so;

"More and more people in this country", he wrote, "many of them men and women of impeccably liberal instincts, are beginning to contemplate seriously, and not without some satisfaction, the possibility of a period of authoritarian rule in Britain."

The trouble with such unsubstantiated assertions is that there is no satisfactory way of refuting them. Clearly Chalfont and I do not talk to the same people, but surely anyone who is satisfied by the prospect of authoritarian rule cannot fairly claim for his liberal instincts the quality of impeccability?

Weird

The combination of the silly

season (which officially began yesterday) and the continuing saga of Watergate is clearly going to America's head. It has already produced one weird report, concerning that emotional first televised vote in the congressional committee which, 10 days ago, recommended the President's impeachment.

The 50 members had barely walked off camera when the House Select Committee on Assassinations, headed by Peter Rodino, raced up to Peter Rodino, the committee chairman. He said, had just left Washington's National Airport. It was said to be a Kamikaze flight which was going to crash on the building where the committee met.

Then, in what *The New York Times* describes with restraint as a bizarre episode, Rodino went to his office to look out of the window of the plane's descent. It did not appear.

"Rodino sat, as if at the wake of a friend, speaking of inconsequential things... Suddenly he rose without a word and walked from the office, and cried." My



Churchill with hair, on Jersey stamp.

Hairy

Sir Winston Churchill was subject to many accusations during and after his life, but he did not think anybody deserved his hair or wearing toupees. Yet this is the impression given by a new stamp with his picture on it.

The stamp, a 20p Jersey centenary issue, is obviously based on the famous "British bulldog" picture of Sir Winston Churchill of Canada.

Photographs of similar much earlier vintage in the portrait of Churchill by Sir Gilbert Gilkes show Sir Winston as unashamedly balding, though occasionally a faint wisp of hair is evident in close-up. Now the touching-up job on the photograph has been pursued a step further on the stamp.

All right for some. An advertisement in this week's Sunday Times for the President of American corporation offers a special salary of \$200,000 a year plus an incentive bonus... needs an incentive?

PHS

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The Times Diary

Doomwatching: everybody's doing it

about another £2,000 in outside earnings."

He does not think that no one should be earning more than he is. "I do have rather old-fashioned, puritanical ideas that there should be an upper limit. If one drew the line at £13,000 or £14,000 a year, that would have quite a small differential. George Orwell once said that in the socialist republic that would be created in Britain after the war income differentials would not exceed 10 to one. I tell that to students now, and they whistle when I point out that that would be much more egalitarian than Russia and Eastern Europe, where they have a flat rate of tax."

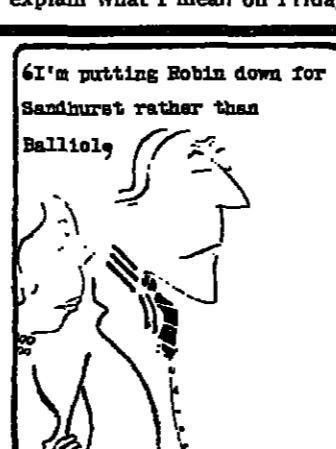
By the time this appears, Crick's mind may be relieved of these gloomy forebodings. He is taking his two boys for a camping holiday in Fort William. He further: "I can go, facing the worst that cholera, inflation or counter-revolution might send."

He goes on: "We can just about live with 20 per cent inflation, but if the rate of increase goes in the next three years as it has in the past, then we are into the state that Weimar Germany was in, or that Chile got into under Allende. Fundamentally he was destroyed by inflation. Either the early socialists or Mr Powell is right. Wages either have to be planned and arbitraged, or they have to be left to the market. At the moment we are getting the worst of the middle. As a social-

ist, I think that it is now being proved in Britain that a capitalist economy with unlimited acquisitiveness cannot work." The collapse, if it comes, will start, he thinks, in the public services. "Some occupations will simply become unprofitable to enter. Anything involving payments over time will become much more difficult. Eventually no country is going to maintain any order that takes away the value of its money before it is spent. There is still a total lack of perception that there is a crisis, but the politicians must arrest inflation at almost any price. Otherwise the country will turn to anyone who can promise to stop it."

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In this article, he describes with restraint as a bizarre episode, Rodino went to his office to look out of the window of the plane's descent. It did not appear.



When he became Minister for Disarmament that same year, he was given to dire threats of imminent nuclear anarchy if agreements were not reached.

More recently, he has been warning of dangers to our democracy from extremism. In articles for *The Times* just before this year's election, he claimed that law-breaking extremists would invite a frightening backlash. He has been developing the theme throughout the summer.

On this page yesterday his fears of military and industrial doom fused into an image of a military coup in Britain. It would be a product of desperation caused by inflation of which "the massive power and often ruthless action of the great industrial trade unions" was a contributory factor.



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BATTERED COUNCILS

Workers in both London and outside will take note of the settlement over London allowances for local authority staff. It goes some way beyond the proposals of the Pay Board report on London weighting, but it was always inevitable that that document would be regarded by unions as something more akin to an offer waiting to be improved than as a guide to be followed. Workers in central London will gain rather lower awards than the report proposed, and those in outer London considerably higher ones; the overall cost will be £15m instead of £14m. Other groups of London workers will look for comparable terms and reinforce the inflationary tendency of the Pay Board's proposals, while those elsewhere will feel a livelier grievance at the way London is favoured. In particular, the high award for outer London will aggravate the 'cliff effect' suffered by neighbouring councils which cannot offer their staff the same inducements.

The settlement follows five months of strikes and overtime bans, the most sustained exercise of industrial power yet attempted by the National and Local Government Officers' Association. Until 1961 Nalgo had a clause in its constitution forbidding strikes; it did not call one until 1970. Now it is one of the most active movers in the spread of militancy in the public services which has been so noticeable recently. Categories of staff who would once never have dreamt of industrial action have resorted to it in the Civil Service, the health service and education, as well as in local government. The new tactics make a big difference to attitudes and relationships, and the services concerned are all showing signs of confusion and demoralization. This is so even though many of the claims in

question deserve and receive sympathy from both colleagues and the public.

Local government is probably the service where spirits are lowest. Changing labour relations are a factor in its gloom, but a less important one than the stress of the great reorganization in April, and the consequences of inflation. At the same time the details of the Poulson affair have made cynicism about local government more widespread than it has been for years. The effort involved in the first major reorganization for a century was bound to be followed by a reaction, not only on the part of staff and councillors who had to undergo a prolonged period of uncertainty and extra work, but also on that of the public, who woke one day to find that the old councils with which they had at least some degree of identification and affection had been replaced by unfamiliar ones, in which they were yoked with neighbours who had been used to different customs, and sometimes different standards. The advantages claimed for the new system have not yet begun to make themselves felt to any extent, to either citizens or councils.

Even without the Poulson affair, there would probably still have been an outcry over the ceremonies to mark the end of the old order, the spectacular salaries of some officers of large new authorities, and the new attendance and expense allowances of councillors. In that atmosphere, the protests have sometimes been much too shrill, though there is some over-staffing and salary inflation.

The sense of being the butt of unmerited public suspicion and hostility has been increased by the inflation issue. When successive governments urge councils

to economize, and the rate demands nevertheless go soaring up, the ratepayer tends to conclude that there is profligacy somewhere in the town hall. In fact, there is rather more skimping and pinching on services than councils are statutorily obliged to provide. One of the weaknesses of the rates as a method of raising money is that, being based on frequently postponed quinquennial valuation, it tends to lag behind inflation, unlike buoyant taxes whose yield rises almost unnoticed as the value of money falls. Governmental tinkering with rate support grants this year, strong as the case for each revision may have been, multiplies work and adds to the feeling of grievance.

Most of these afflictions should pass naturally with time. The rumours of corruption will recede, one must hope. The new councils will settle down, and once they have it will be time to judge whether the upheaval was worth it, and to repair whatever anomalies it may have created. The problem of finance clearly calls for reform, and is under review. But there are bound to be many painful rate demands still to come, and many ministerial exhortations to austerity. Local government in England will be in a fragile state for some time.

Continuous changes of government policy and continuous structural alterations must in the end be injurious to the standards of administration in local government. The constitutional debate over Scotland and Wales is going to draw in the question of regional devolution in England, with the possibility of another drastic round of reforms. But whatever Parliament finally does about the Kilbrandon report, it has a duty to see that the institutions we have are not strained beyond their capacity to adapt.

which Bonn agreed to renounce demonstrative political acts, in Berlin, such as meetings of the Bundestag, while the Soviet Union agreed to accept existing institutional ties and to restrain the East Germans from trying to reduce them. The Russians made quite a number of concessions from their point of view, many of them pushed through against the resistance of their allies the East Germans.

It was therefore a little bit clumsy of Herr Genscher to make a deliberate political demonstration out of the establishment of the environmental office. Even if the letter of the agreement provides for the "development" of the spirit suggests that the status quo should be preserved. The time to insist on a strict legal interpretation of the agreement is when the other side starts breaking the letter or the spirit.

As a matter of fact the East Germans have already breached the spirit, and possibly the letter too, by raising the amount of money which visitors to East Germany must change at the border, thereby putting such visits beyond the reach of many. If the environmental office had been declared as a counter-measure to this the gesture would have been more valuable. As it is, it has rocked the boat to no very obvious purpose. However, Bonn must now stick to its legal guns, and the Russians, having made their point, should allow the matter to settle into quick oblivion.

There is, however, a political dimension to the dispute which is not so clear cut. The basic purpose of the Berlin agreement was to give a legal basis to the status quo and to try to avoid further disputes. It was a compromise in

BERLIN BACK AGAIN

One of the ideas it hit upon was to set up a new federal office for the environment in Berlin. There was nothing wrong with this in itself. There are already a great many offices of the Federal Government in Berlin, and one more would not represent any political or legal change. But Herr Genscher, who was then Minister of the Interior and is now Foreign Minister, could not resist saying in public that it was intended as a political act. This was seen as provocative by the East Germans, who do not like the ties between Berlin and West Germany and have a slippery tendency to mistranslate

MERCENARIES LEFT HIGH AND DRY

When wars end they leave behind problems of demobilization which in turn may mean economic distress and insecurity. There are signs of these afflictions at various points along China's border with her Asian neighbours after the end of the American conflict with China. It was never a war, of course. After Mr Dulles's brinkmanship the conflict settled down under the label of containment. This objective was achieved at one end of the geographical and military spectrum by the threat of American nuclear power and at the other by the many small, clandestine operations conducted across China's borders by mercenaries. Whether intelligence or sabotage or guerrilla action was intended the training, the arms and the money usually came from American sources. With the coexistence inaugurated by Mr Nixon's visit in 1972 containment lapsed and the mercenaries have since lost their occupation and, most important, their paymasters.

One such contingent, not at all given to the arts of peace, are the Tibetan Khambas of whom there are some three thousand or more based by Nepal's border with Tibet. For months past they have turned to pillaging the countryside, functioning at random as highwaymen, making off with women and generally making the lives of peaceful peasants intolerable. The Nepalese Government wants to put a stop to it not only for the damage it causes internally but because it remains a blot on their own relations with China.

Appeals to the Khambas to surrender their arms have not had much response. Some of them may still want to operate into Tibet. It was the Khamba revolt against the Chinese presence in Tibet that became active in 1956 and led to the uprising and flight of the Dalai Lama in 1959. Since then the Khambas driven out of Tibet have been using Nepalese territory and enjoying American backing. The end of that backing does not assuage Khamba animosity. Tibet remains a problem irrespective of the Sino-American detente.

Further east in Thailand the principal mercenaries are the Chinese nationalist units, some of whom came in during the Second

World War with the rest following after the Kuomintang defeat in the civil war. They have been busy ever since in the drug smuggling trade, when not serving as mercenaries in the war in Laos or in forays across the Chinese border. This was acceptable to the old Thai Government since it was committed to the American cause against China and was ready to take a cut in the lucrative activities of the drug traffic. The new Thai Government wants to see the back of these soldiers and will gladly export them wherever they will be received, to Taiwan or China. Unfortunately they have been settled in Thailand for so long and so profitably that they are not likely to be ejected unless their friends, and sometimes patrons in Taiwan, apply much more pressure. Neither in Nepal nor in Thailand can the governments contemplate military operations to put an end to the trouble. As it is, in all the countries bordering China to the South (India has its Nagas, Burma its Chins and Shans) there are disaffected minorities in fringe areas outside the control of still weak governments.

London orchestras

From Mr Alan Blyth

Mr Shell in his letter today (July 29) tells only half the story. The Arts Council Report on Orchestral Sources in Great Britain in 1970 recommended, among other things, that the London Orchestral Concert Board should offer "appropriate financial support for two orchestras accepting contractual obligations designed to provide permanence and stability". That was to take effect from the 1973-74 season.

Nothing has been done to implement this vital and important resolute

opposition of players, who do not want to give up freelance status, and because of the vested interest in keeping four orchestras going.

When will those who hold the purse strings act to rectify the present unsatisfactory situation?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BLYTHE,
11 Boundary Road, NW8.

Britain and the EEC

From Baron Jean van den Bosch

Sir, I am afraid there is nothing to add to, nor elas, to subtract from the accurate picture given by your Brussels correspondent, Roger Berthoud, on July 30, of the impact so

far made by Her Majesty's Government on their EEC partners.

They feel faced with an attitude that no British association, club, company or institution they know of would accept from any of their members.

Staying in London in the early thirties with some delightful friends, the father, somewhat Edwardian, used to describe the Continent as "the only place where a gentleman could misbehave".

Has this become an official motto?

Yours sincerely,
JEAN VAN DEN BOSCH,
1 avenue de l'Hippodrome,
1050, Brussels, Belgium.

Conditions in Cyprus under the Makarios regime

From Mr G. E. Garrett

Sir, In view of the denial from Archbishop Makarios published in your sister journal *The Sunday Times* yesterday and the further reference in your issue of today to such denial and to the criticism of the article in your issue of July 31 by Stephen Terrell, QC, I feel it is necessary to amplify the brief statement contained in my letter to you in your issue of July 21.

First, with regard to Stephen Terrell's article about which the Archbishop says that the author had gone to Cyprus to defend "members of the terrorist organization Eoka B" and that he was "not unbiased", it appears that the Archbishop has little regard for the well-established tradition of the English Bar (of whom most of the Cyprus judges and lawyers are members) that one

term but declared specifically that my conclusions confirmed that there had been acts of violence and intimidation by the security forces, that means of inquiring into such complaints were inadequate and ineffective, that the judicial proceedings available were not being fully used and much stricter discipline and control of the security forces was needed.

Examples of the matters complained of were given but no specific cases were mentioned and therefore it is not correct to say that cases were investigated or that as a result it was established that 99 per cent of such cases were without foundation. The main point of the report was to urge that the official governmental authorities should be more active in mounting independent investigations to establish the truth of complaints and that an adequate procedure for an independent and public inquiry should be set up.

At the time of my visit in August 1973, the Attorney-General of the Republic had initiated some inquiries into seven complaints amongst the many which had been received by the Commission. In each of those seven cases the inquiries finished with an indication that the matter had been referred to the police (the persons against whom the complaints were made), who had reported that there was either no or not sufficient evidence to justify prosecution.

Following what is known as the "October incident" when a riot and considerable maltreatment occurred in the Central Prison in Nicosia, the House of Representatives set up a formal judicial inquiry. In due course a full report was published which fully confirmed the pattern of activity which I had found and established that although there had been some verbal provocation by prisoners the tactical reserve police had responded with unjustifiable brutality and the effects of their

actions were fully supported by medical evidence. To the best of my knowledge no other serious judicial inquiry has been undertaken although the House of Repre-

sentatives did pass a general resolution declaring that complaints would be properly investigated.

During the four or five weeks immediately preceding the coup I received a series of letters from different sources in Cyprus giving specific details with names, dates and places of brutal treatment by the tactical reserve police. The number of incidents of which I have particulars is approximately 80 and I believe that all these and many more were fully publicized in the Cyprus press.

In the middle of that period I sent telegrams to the Archbishop, the Attorney-General and the President of the House of Representatives asking that the prisoners should be given proper protection and complaints should be made the subject of full inquiry. The Archbishop through his Under Secretary replied that "all persons under arrest are being properly treated and any alleged maltreatment is being duly investigated". There is a mass of evidence which is capable of a contrary interpretation.

Finally the Archbishop adds the very unusual comment that some of the injuries of which complaints had been made were self-inflicted.

I myself interviewed this man and undoubtedly he did have stomach ulcers. He could hardly however have been thought to have jumped on his own stomach which was the true cause of his serious and continuing internal disorders. In any event it is beyond my comprehension to imagine people inflicting on themselves the kind of injuries which I saw or those such as broken legs and torn toe nails of which I have evidence. Moreover since in many cases injuries were inflicted on police premises one wonders how or why this was allowed to happen. Almost invariably injuries occurred between the time of arrest and the time of presentation of prisoners in court for remand. It seems to me inevitable that responsibility for such injuries must rest upon those having custody of the prisoners.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. GARRETT,
162 Clifford's Inn,
Fetter Lane, EC4.

August 5.

Discipline in universities

From Professor R. V. Jones

Sir, Your account of Lord Annan's report of the disturbances in the University of Essex in effect reiterates what a minority of us in the universities has long realized to apply much more generally than to Essex alone; but the causes run deeper than has been mentioned.

In the first place our university structures have been based implicitly on the assumption that the students would come to us with an adequate sense of discipline from their schools and the schools have, until the past 20 years or so, been able in turn to assume that parental discipline would have been exerted still earlier at home. However to rectify the pre-war regulations of Oxford and Cambridge colleges may appear to the present undergraduate, they were utter freedom compared with what we had been accustomed to at school. Those then responsible for university government had therefore not to think much about the moral and academic basis of university discipline.

In the second place, the expansion following the Robbins Report not only increased the number of genuine students. It still more increased the number of those who came to the universities without much sense of purpose; and it also sharply increased the number of staff, some of them with qualifications such as hardly fitted them for their academic responsibilities as well as with no experience either of leadership or of the outside world. This has made them all the more vulnerable to attacks from disruptive elements such as Lord Annan describes. They have tended to take the easy way out, and to abdicate the qualified authority that it was their duty to exert.

Those of us who were drawn out of the universities by World War II and who worked with the services learnt much from the experience. The services have for centuries been facing the problem that we in the universities have only recently had to face, that of dealing with large numbers. And in a postwar essay J. D. Bernal, who might have been expected to think otherwise, wrote: "We scientists had much to learn from the traditional modes worked out through centuries of experience in the military field".

None of us would pretend that the problems are the same, and we realize that academic authority must always be open to academic challenge, but there is enough in common between running a university department, especially if laboratories are involved, and commanding a ship to make it worth learning from service experience; and the same is true at all levels of the academic hierarchy.

One step that I myself learnt from the services was the merit of having Staff Colleges, and I thought enough of it to propose in 1945 the creation of a Scientific Staff College. Although the proposal was well received it fell through because of expense. It was revived in 1951 by Lord Hankey, again without success. The one concrete result was that ever since a few scientists in government establishments have been posted, much to their advantage, to the various Defence Staff Colleges.

Today I would broaden the proposal so as to make it an Academic Staff College, to which promising younger members of academic staffs could be posted for six months or so, to broaden their outlook on the outside world, to benefit by being brought to consider the whole range of problems of administration and leadership, and to discuss the purpose of their chosen profession and its relation to others. It would be a dangerous step if the college were to become too doctrinaire, or too much in the hands of the "professional" educators, but here again we can learn from the Defence Colleges where the directing staffs are progressively changed.

Many university teachers live glass-emplotted lives from their undergraduate days to retirement, and it is ironic that these institutions which above all should be fitting their students for the outside world are the very places where the staffs have least experience of it. Although a staff college could not completely compensate for lack of outside experience it could enlighten the rising academic regarding many things that those of us in the war, and since, have learnt "the hard way".

R. V. JONES,
8 Queens Terrace,
Aberdeen,
August 2.

Ministry of Defence move

From Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie

Sir, Some ten years ago, under a Conservative administration, the control and direction of the Armed Services of this country were concentrated in an integrated Ministry of Defence in Whitehall: a move strongly supported and endorsed by the subsequent administration.

In spite of much heart-searching and misgivings about over centralization from the services themselves and many others, I believe this move was in keeping with the times and has been generally accepted as improving the overall direction and control of the country's defence and money expended on this.

Now we hear of the Ministry of Defence being dispersed to Scotland, Wales and the North of England. What sense does this make?

As one who had some experience in the Polaris Executive of 1963-64, of the disadvantages of geographically dispersed of headquarters control I cannot believe that this new plan will add to the efficiency of our defence services, no matter how strongly supported and endorsed by the subsequent administration.

In the first place, the staffs have less experience of it. Although a staff college could not completely compensate for lack of outside experience it could enlighten the rising academic regarding many things that those of us in the war, and since, have learnt "the hard way".

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MACKENZIE,
Sylvan Lodge,
Puttenham,
Near Guildford, Surrey.

August 2.

PEN post

From Mr Peter Elstob

Sir, Reading the article about International PEN in today's (August 2) *Times*, it occurs to me that I should perhaps have made it clear to your reporter that when I was confirmed as General Secretary at the PEN Conference in Macedonia, Yugoslavia, last May, it was until the next full PEN Congress, which alone has the powers to elect a General Secretary for the full four-year term.

That congress is scheduled to take place in Israel next December, and in October a committee from nine PEN centres will meet in London to decide what candidate or candidates to put forward.

Something that does not seem quite fair to me and if I were still an MP, I think that I should be rather ashamed about it.

Yours sincerely,
PETER ELSTOB,
General Secretary,
International PEN,
Glebe House,
62/63 Glebe Place,
Chelsea, SW3.

July 30.

MPs' pensions

From Colonel C. F. H. Gough

Sir, Noting the considerable additions to MP's allowances, I wonder how many of them give a man's thought to the small and dwindling band of their predecessors, who continue to suffer a grave injustice. I refer to those who were Members of Parliament up to October 16, 1964, but not since that date. On the Lawrence Committee's recommendation, this group was debarred from inclusion in the new pension scheme although those who returned to the House after the General Election automatically qualified for up to 10 years back service pensions, paid for by the State.

Furthermore, those pensions are based on final salary and are therefore automatically increased with



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 5: By Command of The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of the Crown Prince of Iran. The Prince Ali Reza, Princess Farah Pahlavi and their two daughters, the Princesses Shahnaz and Leila, daughter of the late Dr and Mrs Earshaw, of Brisbane, Australia.

CLARENCE HOUSE
August 5: Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded the Dowager Viscountess Hambleden as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will view oil rigs in the North Sea from HMY Britannia on August 12.

The Queen will visit the Commonwealth Institute on October 17.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Farnborough international air show and later attend the Society of British Aerospace Companies Flying Display dinner at the Dorchester hotel, on September 4.

The Duke of Kent will open the Fifth International Broadcasting Convention at Grosvenor House on September 23.

Birthdays today

Countess of Albemarle, 65: Sir Randolph Bacon, 68: Mr. Ronald Dunn, 60: Dame Miria Golombok, 72: Lord Mountbatten, 73: Sir Vice-Marshall T. C. Macdonald, 65: Major-General C. H. McVitie, 66: Marquess of Northampton, 59: Sir Duncan Oppenheim, 70.

Church news

Appointments:
The Rev G. R. Rhys, Vicar of Christ Church, Aughton, diocese of Liverpool, to the benefice of Arthington with Fairbourne, diocese of Bangor.

The Rev R. D. White, curate of Port Talbot, diocese of Llandaff, to the benefice of Cae Rhu with Llangelynnin, diocese of Bangor.

Latest appointments:
The following have been selected as deputy headmasters of Staffords: Mr. G. M. Nuttall, Miss B. M. Webb-Bowen, Mr. P. G. Wild.

Captain T. B. Homan as Director-General of Naval Personnel Services in October to be promoted rear-admiral in January.

Wax Chandlers' Company

The following have been elected by the Wax Chandlers' Company for two years: Master, Mr. R. J. Fielden; Upper Warden, Mr. A. J. Grier; Renter Warden, Mr. J. C. Field.

Women's Appointments also on pages 11 & 14

SECRETARIAL

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The last fall is called, the autumn fall, and yet another 100,000 tons of wine in the atmosphere that will surround bright, young secretaries who work for the Head of the Wine Department in world-famous auction house.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. D. Archdale and Miss B. Burrows
The engagement is announced between George, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. J. Archdale, of Breccles Hall, Abridgeborough, Norfolk, and Beverley, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Burrows, of Wyntons Gardens, London.

Mr I. R. Spraggett and Miss E. Earshaw
The engagement is announced between Ian Richard Spraggett, of 15 Sargood Street, Torak, Victoria 3142, Australia, son of the late Mrs M. L. C. Spraggett, of Melbourne, and of Collette R. Spraggett, of Melbourne, and Ellen, daughter of the late Dr and Mrs Earshaw, of Brisbane, Australia.

Mr A. E. Vaughan-Arbuckle and Miss M. F. S. Elliott
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs K. H. Vaughan-Arbuckle, of Ballyrook House, Bradworth, Devon, and Margaret, daughter of Sir Arthur and Lady Elliot of Stobs, Redheugh, New-castle, Roxburghshire.

Mr M. R. C. Waits and Miss J. P. Cooper
The engagement is announced between Michael Robert Courtney, son of Mr and Mrs E. G. Watts, of Uxbridge, Middlesex, and Joanna Prudence, youngest daughter of Professor and Mrs John Sloper, of Moor Park, Hertfordshire.

Rev L. Wray and Miss C. V. Hawker
The engagement is announced between the Rev Llewellyn Wray, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Wray, of Adelaide, South Australia, and Clare Victoria, daughter of the Rev Peter and Mrs Hawker, of Lincoln.

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Criticism of Yorkshire council staff duplication

By Ronald Kershaw
As South Yorkshire County Council announces plans to spend £1.5m next year to attract new industry, concern is being expressed at costs of a multiplicity of industrial development officers and staffs of Labour-controlled local authorities in the county.

In a call for some kind of rationalization, Mr. Jack Brown, chairman of Barnsley district Labour Party said that within the region there were six industrial development officers.

He explained that there was the Yorkshire and Humberside development association financed largely by local authorities. Then there were South Yorkshire county authority, followed by Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham metro, political district authorities each with officers and staffs. This appeared rather wasteful duplication.

"As all the local authorities involved in the South Yorkshire county are Labour-controlled, it is time they got together. Perhaps one industrial development department instead of six different heads would be the answer."

Another line of criticism comes from Councillor Dennis Eaden, of Hoyland, an opposition member of the county council, who has objected to moves to sell off county-owned land to private developers.

Mr Eaden said an advertisement had recently appeared inviting tenders for land. His view was that the county should retain ownership of land and if necessary build factories for incoming industrialists.

It is understood a joint committee of Barnsley district and South Yorkshire county is to reconsider the proposed sale.

Attracting industry, Councillor C. A. Smith, vice-chairman of the planning committee, said the bulk of the £1.5m budget would be spent on buying land by the county for an industrial estate of 573 acres at Carcroft Common, near Doncaster.

Prime targets will be firms in West Germany, Japan and Canada. The county believes that British firms were simply not interested in moving to South Yorkshire.

Mr. Smith said the county planning department's recent survey showed that British companies of the kind required were reluctant to expand in South Yorkshire. The county wanted to attract large labour-intensive firms.

Computer news

Ship navigation aid from IBM system

A new type of computer-based navigation information system is being demonstrated on the Sealink cross-channel ferry Prins Philippe, operating between Dover and Ostend. Developed by International Business Machines and based on the System 7 small computer, it marks the entry of the company into yet another non-traditional market.

The system takes information from the ship's radar and other navigating equipment, processes it to give collision assessment and route planning and tracking data, and displays the results for the navigator on a console on the bridge.

It can also be connected to a ship's autopilot so that, subject to the push-button approval of the navigator, the vessel can

Drop in US growth attributed to Aramco deal with Saudi Arabia

Washington, Aug. 5.—Change in ownership of an oil company in Saudi Arabia entirely accounts for the decline in the "real" United States gross national product in the second quarter, government statisticians have discovered.

In the view of many economists, this is another example of why gross accounts must be carefully interpreted with care, including the judgment of whether 1974 will be declared a recession year.

The item that distorted the second-quarter figures, it turns out, was the assumption of majority ownership by Saudi Arabia of Aramco, the formerly American-owned company which produces 95 per cent of the oil in Saudi Arabia, which has more oil reserves than any other country in the world.

The transaction reduced the Saudi government, which is expected eventually to assume 100 per cent ownership.

Mr. Liebling argues that the "net exports" of goods and services component of the gap, because it reduced the flow of corporate profits from abroad. The drop in overseas oil income—which like other remitted overseas profits is included in the gap—was \$2.50bn (about £1.05bn) in the second quarter.

First-half surge in shipbuilding

By Peter Hill

Shipbuilding output has risen substantially in the first half of this year compared with last year's period, according to official figures published yesterday.

The industry completed 12 ships totalling 184,438 tons gross in June, pushing the half yearly total to 66 vessels with an aggregate of 799,176 tons gross. According to the Department of Industry, six vessels totalling 46,403 tons were completed in the same month last year and 67

ships of 430,656 tons in the first of 1973.

These figures will lend support to the shipbuilders' case against nationalization plans announced last week by Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry.

The department's figures confirm the trend of other statistical information on the industry's performance and lend weight to its own expectation that this year British yards will complete more than 1.4 million tons gross for the first time since the Second World War.

Tokyo increases loan provision

Tokyo, Aug. 5.—Three major Japanese car makers have plans to assemble passenger cars in the United States, the *Bikkan Kogyo Shinbun* industrial newspaper reported today.

Nissan Motor, Toyota and Toyo Kogyo, makers of Mazda cars, had made preliminary inquiries through the Commerce Department and State governments.

The Japanese are anxious to maintain their position on the American market against strong domestic competition, and to beat import restrictions.—AP-Dow Jones.

automatically be steered along the most economical route.

Main advantage claimed for the system is that it relieves the load on bridge officers, particularly in bad weather, by giving them a single "integrated" display of information. The System 7 computer solves a variety of navigational problems, and the navigator calls up the various answers as required.

Honeywell orders

Orders for Honeywell's new Series 60 computers have exceeded \$100m (over £40m) worldwide, the company announced yesterday. In Britain

15 orders for Series 60 equipment amount to about £1m, mainly for machines at the smaller end of the range.

These orders include Honeywell's first Series 60 machine for a local authority in Britain. This is a Model 61/60 for Basildon District Council, worth about £70,000.

New molecular 6M

A new version of the Molecular 6M computer, introduced originally by Business Computers before it went into receivership, has been announced by the successor company, Business Computer (Systems), a subsidiary of Computer World Trade.

The new model is known as the GME; as with the earlier 6Ms, it is based on a standard package approach in place of the customer-tailored systems of the Molecular 18.

The Molecular 18 Mk 2 continues to be sold; both models are marketed on the basis of separate charging for hardware and software. The name of the successor company to BCL has been changed from Business

Mr. Herman L. Liebling, a senior Treasury Department economist, has calculated that in constant dollars, this decline was large enough to account for the entire decline in the real gap in the second quarter.

The Saudi government announced in June that it had reached an agreement with Aramco—the Arabian American Oil Company—to increase its ownership of the company from 25 to 60 per cent, retroactive to January 1.

Aramco, which produces more oil than any other company in the world, was founded in 1933 by the Standard Oil Company of California. Its ownership has been expanded to include Texaco Inc., the Exxon Corporation—since two years ago the Saudi government, which is expected eventually to assume 100 per cent ownership.

Mr. Liebling points out that the change in corporate ownership, and the accompanying

—which like other remitted overseas profits is included in the gap—was \$2.50bn (about £1.05bn) in the second quarter.

Other problems with the gap

recently have included revision of the statistics for last year and the first quarter of 1974.

Mr. Liebling argues that such measures as industrial production, employment and electric power production indicate that the economy grew in the second quarter. But he concedes that the gap, quite apart from the distortion caused by overseas oil income, showed weakness in several sectors.—New York Times News Service.

ICI among companies in Brazilian ventures

Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 5.—Brazil's state-controlled petrochemical company, Petrobras, will enter into four new undertakings with foreign companies in the petrochemical complex at Camacari, Bahia, it was announced here.

An official communiqué from Petrobras, of which Petroquisa is a subsidiary, said the first undertaking would be with Imperial Chemical Industries for production of 50,000 tonnes of polypropylene a year.

ICI would have a 33 per cent share.

The second, in which Sumitomo Chemical Co and C. Itoh Co would share 30 per cent, is for production of 100,000 tonnes of low density polyethylene a year.

Foster Grant Co Inc will have a 33.33 per cent share in the third undertaking, which is to produce 100,000 tonnes of styrene and 45,000 tonnes of polystyrene a year.

Petroquisa and Mitsui alone

will be in the fourth venture, which is to produce 150,000 tonnes of ammonium phosphate.

In the first three projects other Brazilian companies will be involved. All four will draw on the raw materials centre to be set up at Camacari by Petroquisa do Nordeste SA (Copene).

At the end of last month, Brazil's National Bank for Economic Development announced an 800m cruzeiro (about £45m) credit to Copene for installation of the first unit of the centre.—Reuters.

DoI confirms airbus study

It was confirmed yesterday by the Department of Industry that it was studying a report from Hawker Siddeley on the prospects for the HS 146, the 100-seat, four-jet airbus the company is developing with government support.

But, the department indicated, this did not mean the Government was considering cutting back its investment in the project—about £46m at 1973 prices—or pulling out altogether.

The company declined to comment on the suggestion that "the axe is poised" over the project.

Deputy head at Guthrie Corporation

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Singer factory system

Hawker Siddeley Aviation has ordered a factory data collection system from Singer Business Machines for the aircraft company's plant at Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

The system is designed to

provide Hawker Siddeley with an on-line message validating

system to monitor work in progress on the factory floor. It is based on a Singer System Ten computer, linked to 23 job information terminals.

Messages relating to the

various stages of "work in progress", inspection reports,

and subsidiary timekeeping

information for payroll are

transmitted direct from the

terminals to the System Ten computer. A similar system is

planned by Hawker Siddeley

for its factory in Brough, Yorkshire.

Kenneth Owen

Mr. K. M. G. Anderson has been appointed deputy chairman of the Guthrie Corporation.

Mr. P. J. Matthews, managing director of Victoria Ltd, has become a member of the National Research Development Corporation from August 1.

Mr. S. R. H. Johnson has been appointed managing director of KCA Drilling. He is also managing director of Berry Wiggins Oil Services.

Mr. J. A. Freeman has been made managing director of Maurice D. Curwen Ltd, a member of the Brent Chemicals International group. Mr. I. M. MacKellar joins the Curwen board with particular responsibility for technical and production matters. Mr. Freeman replaces Mr. F. W. Stubbs, who remains on the board and will concentrate on developing the group's international engineering expansion.

Mr. Charles W. Buek has been elected a director and appointed chairman of UK Lucas London. Mr. Roy Ammons has been elected a director but remains a director.

Mr. Hugh P. Barker, the present

deputy chairman, becomes chairman of Eossey and Hawke when Mr. Kenneth Pool retires on September 23. Mr. Pool will continue as a director. Mr. Alan Chapman, at present joint managing director, has been appointed group chief executive.

Mr. G. S. Bishop has been appointed a director of Barclays Bank. He is a chairman of Booker McConnell and is already on the board of Barclays Bank International.

Mr. James C. D. Tree is to be

assistant vice-president of World Banking Corporation in London.

Mr. David H. Bruce becomes vice-president of Gulf Oil in Asia.

Mr. T. G. Harrison has been appointed a director of Amcast

Investment Management Services.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the Wankel engine is a good investment

From Mr. L. J. K. Setright Sir, It would be a pity if your readers were to infer from the headline gracing Mr. Mortimer's letter (July 4) that he speaks for all engineers. His "seven good reasons why the Wankel does not make sense" deserve to be challenged, on grounds either of what is sense or even of what is good.

The fifth argument about development potential could be referred to my second and third paragraphs. It has been advanced against everything from the breech-loading rifle (the dullards who denied in this lost us America) to supersonic flight; and a study of engineering's most distinguished aeronautics suggests that any such accusation provides a measure, not of the object's potential, but of the critics' imagination.

It is stated sixthly that the Wankel is far too complex and offers no possibility of honest maintenance. "Too complex" is an expression of engineers' personal and arbitrary standards of complexity, with which there can be no argument; but if the Wankel is too complex, then so must be the even more complicated piston engine which is in fact less easy to maintain. Personally I look forward to the day when further development makes the Wankel more complex than it now is and the better for it.

Seventh and surprisingly last in Mr. Mortimer's list is his statement that "the exhaust is so dirty". This just will not do. Comparing bare untreated engines, the Wankel is superior to the piston engine in NO_x emissions, equal in CO, and inferior in HC; but is responds far better to established sanitation techniques, so that the cleaner the exhaust is to be, the better does the new engine compare with the old—notably in fuel consumption and in its ability to run on low-grade leaded fuel. In time the stratified-charged principle will be applied properly, both kinds, and once again the Wankel will have more scope for exploiting its plus liquidity.

Some of us at least would prefer to tighten our belts now rather than deliver to our children—and ourselves in our declining years—a nation so crippled by debt and claims on the security of Treasury sterling guarantees has not yet been proven; only now is the time drawing near when production quantities will be great enough to justify the development of economic production means.

The argument that the Wankel engine demands expensive materials is really insupportable. So, if it be carefully examined, does the piston engine; but they are different substances. It is hard to deny the probability that this new engine will have to fight its battles with those whose short-term investment problems make them hope it will never catch on." Mr. Mortimer will be of the opinion that if God had meant us to have Wankel engines He would have guaranteed us abundant petroleum; but I suspect that had not Mammom been an interested party, that guarantee would not have been required.

After all that I must admit that what engineers deem good or recognise as sense hardly matters. It is not engineers but money-minders and marketing men who determine what is made and sold. And last of all the conflicts of engineering expertise and opinion that have entertained your readers since this topic was mentioned, the soundest contention was that of Mr. Frostick: "The Wankel engine will have to fight its battles with those whose short-term investment problems make them hope it will never catch on."

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Yours faithfully,
L. J. K. SETRIGHT,
Setright Ltd,
1 Berens Road,
London, NW10.

DIXOR LIMITED

A Subsidiary of Matthews Holdings Limited

Business: Cosmetics

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR TO

30th MARCH, 1974

Year to 30 Sept. 1973	Half Year to 2 April 1973	Half Year to 30 March 1974
£	£	£

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Fresh momentum required at Thorn



M. F. L. Perkins, chairman of Hogg Robinson Group: strong advance in insurance broking income.

The historic p/e is just under 81, though the prospective multiple is probably around two points lower. The dividend is maintained (and fully covered this time without extraordinary profits) which produces an attractive yield of 15 per cent. Neapsend's past record has not been all that good but in current trading conditions, and with a bid always in prospect, the shares do have speculative attractions—though the special steels sector offers several interesting situations now.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £3.94m
Sales £11.2m (£9.0m)
Pre-tax profits £0.94m (£0.32m)
Earnings per share 3.44p (2.43p)
Dividend gross 1.77p (4.37p)

Hogg Robinson Containing expenses

Hogg Robinson's traditional discount to the insurance broking sector is beginning to look a shade ungenuine in the context of the results over the past two years. Yesterday's announcement of a 54 per cent pre-tax improvement was good enough to put the shares 5p ahead to 72p where the p/e ratio is 6.3. Hogg, which changed its name earlier this year from Staplegreen Insurance, can also boast an above average yield of 7.5 per cent.

The bulk of the improvement came on the broking side, which showed an advance of 15 per cent to £8.58m. Expenses are not allocated between broking, underwriting, and investment income; but the message in a mere 7.9 per cent increase in the overall expense figure is clear enough. A combination of the gearing here and more than doubled investment income and profits from share sales at £1.06m account for the bulk of the advance.

Whether the group will be able to hold back expenses in the same way this year is open to question but there is no reason yet to assume that income from broking is going to show any marked slowdown. Short of a sharp decline in underwriting and investment income, there should still be scope for further improvement; fortunately the load on shipping and travel, which have yet to be eliminated, are not significant in relation to the pre-tax figure. By the standards of the sector, Hogg's overseas broking income is not that great, but the rating could still show some relative improvement.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £10.94m
Sales £13.4m (£8.7m)
Pre-tax profits £2.73m (£1.87m)
Earnings per share 7.14p (5.04p)
Dividend gross 1.77p (1.68p)

Gross Cash
Slow recovery likely

The current year for Gross Cash Registers never seemed likely to be much more than an interlude between the two-year run-down from the decimalization peak and the expected upsurge of orders for the new generation of electronic registers.

As it turns out the interlude is proving to be a harrowing experience, even though the warning that the first half would show "little profit" was overly pessimistic. For while three-day working was partially to blame for the downturn, there was also a more fundamental deterioration in sales of conventional registers and calculators after the first two buoyant months of the year which Gross is not expecting to be halted in the second half. Hence the full year forecast of only roughly doubled interim profits.

Moreover, problems with tooling and materials shortages have brought a setback to the marketing programme for the new electronic registers and no contribution is now expected until 1975/76.

The key question now, is how quickly the retail market will respond to electronic registers.

So far the reaction has been slow and it is recognized that most retailers will want a trial period for evaluation. That points to a fairly gradual rather than dramatic sales upturn and the real strength from this quarter might have to wait until 1975/76.

Assuming profits of £350,000 in the current year, a p/e ratio of 11.4 at a year's low of 25.1p is looking for quicker action than this, however, and the shares still look vulnerable.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73)
Capitalization £1.6m
Sales £4.59m (£4.92m)
Pre-tax profits £0.16m (£0.55m)
Dividend gross 1.15p (1.1p)

A successful growth formula

The Letraset International share price has performed

so well in the last year that it is now up to 29p yesterday where

Business Diary: All grist to the Mills

• Justice for Sir John

and Bank of Nova Scotia, to eventually become the Trinidad and Tobago Union of Bank Employees.

As a man who goes preceded by a reputation for coming through our Industrial Relations Act more or less unscathed, and for extending his empire beyond banks into the fertile field of building societies, they might even consider offering him a permanent job as general secretary of the Pan-Caribbean Bank And All Other White Collar Workers Union. At least the weather's better out there.

New Court

What can be done with a judge, still young, who has become, whether deliberately or not, a political focal point? Mr Justice Donaldson, who as Sir John presided over the axed National Industrial Relations Court, is now an ordinary judge of the High Court again, forsaking his neat suits and sleek distinguished hairstyle for the uniform wigs and gowns of the Queen's Bench Division. In fact, he will be sitting mainly in the Commercial Court, from where he was taken to become a nationally controversial figure.

At 53, he is a judge of considerable ability, who in the normal course would be a strong contender for the Court of Appeal. The fact that he did

not get a vacancy which arose recently has set some lawyers' tongues wagging. But the legal establishment, on the whole, feels that he has done an excellent job at the NIRC, firmly and with dignity upholding the rule of law, against political attacks in the most difficult of circumstances. This view is, perhaps surprisingly, shared by many Labour lawyers as well, who reserve their vituperation for the Act, and not the judge.

There is another school of thought, even among some judges, in private, which holds that Sir John has become too much of a political animal to be given higher office. They fear that virtually any judgement of his would come under excessive scrutiny and would be in danger of becoming unnecessarily controversial.

The betting in the Temple and the Law Courts is still that he will become a Lord Justice soon. Even a Labour Government would not be able to hold up his promotion for very long. He cannot be kept in the Commercial Court for ever. And the only way out is up.

Misfits

Britain's ship repairing industry is bemused as it scans the Government's discussion document, outlining its plans for the acquisition of 13 ship repairing companies.

Ranked eighth in the list is

Ian Morison concludes his survey of financial institutions

Steps that are needed to avoid a general erosion of confidence

Yesterday's article argued that most of the recent problems of financial institutions at home and abroad could be traced back to rising interest rates, declining financial asset values and increased volatility on the foreign exchanges. The result had been an erosion of professional confidence not only in individual institutions but in the financial markets where they operate. The article concluded that the problems of "rescuing" banks and other institutions were far from insuperable, but expressed concern that their difficulties might prove symptomatic of more fundamental economic problems.

This is different, of course, from the fear that the collapse of a financial institution, or series of institutions, may itself cause similar difficulties for commercial and industrial companies or for private individuals. The balance of the evidence suggests that such a fear is ill-founded, if only because of the wide variety of tactics that governments and central banks can now adopt to isolate troubled financial institutions from the rest of the economy.

Thus if the political will exists to safeguard the depositors and borrowers of failed banks, the policyholders of failed insurance companies, the clients of failed stockbrokers and so forth, their failures need not result directly in failures among those with whom they did business.

More worrying are the indirect effects of financial failure and the nagging feeling that they reflect a state of monetary affairs which is bound to bring other, non-financial institutions to their knees in time.

Though almost all the financial institutions that have experienced serious troubles recently have been small, they are collectively large enough for their withdrawal from the scene to affect the future development of the markets in which they operated. Even if their users are wound down in an orderly manner, the business which they would have done in future will now either not be done at all or be done in different ways by different institutions.

After all, secondary banks and the like would never have developed at all had they not identified areas of activity in which the major existing institutions had proved unable or unwilling to operate. Even those

who have survived the events of recent months will be forced to pull in their horns from now on and concentrate on more traditional, low-risk activities.

It is the prospective customers of these institutions who will suffer most, not the existing ones.

Precisely how these changes in financial practice will affect economic activity is impossible to forecast. The danger, of course, is that the institutions themselves will react too violently to the traumas of 1973 and 1974 and withhold their services from those who genuinely need and deserve them.

A number of possible examples spring to mind. On the foreign exchange market, for instance, an unwillingness to deal freely with other banks could lead to a reduction in the efficiency of the market as a whole that would deprive legitimate commercial customers of the ability to finance foreign trade.

Equally serious, and probably more likely, is the unwillingness of institutions to place foreign currency deposits with certain banks. This could distort the flow of international capital and place an excessive burden on those major banks whose credibility remains unimpaired. Concern about the viability of many of the banking groups operating in the Eurocurrency market could lead to a polarization of deposits towards a handful of big banking names whose own capital resources might then be among those with whom they did business.

More worrying are the indirect effects of financial failure and the nagging feeling that they reflect a state of monetary affairs which is bound to bring other, non-financial institutions to their knees in time.

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The principle of differentiation in this way in favour of large institutions has already been accepted in the building society industry, where the percentage of assets that a society has to hold in the form of reserves decreases as its assets grow. A similar approach to banks should do much to prevent unnecessary loss of confidence.

Once again, the quid pro quo would be that higher standards of banking prudence and social responsibility would be expected of the large banks than of the smaller ones.

Similar moves to restore confidence in major institutions overseas are essential too, especially in the light of the Bundesbank's handling of the Herstatt affair, which has created legitimate doubts throughout the international financial community about which banks are still safe to deal with. Similarly, they would not need to adhere to specific banking controls, whether monetary or prudential controls, such as capital/deposit ratios.

These institutions formally classified as banks would be able to operate in the knowledge that the Bank of England would stand behind them if they ran into trouble. The price they would pay would be rigorous observation of all formal banking controls and regular official examination of the quality of their business. It would of course be essential for institutions to be able to cross the dividing line—in both directions.

A technical point, but an important one, is whether the Bank of England should be willing to stand behind a bank incorporated in Britain but owned in whole or in part abroad. The general row between the Bank and the Israeli central bank over which should bear responsibility for the Israel-British Bank (London) is a dangerous precedent for the serious disagreements that could arise if a London consortium, with a variety of shareholders of different nationality, ran into trouble.

As a first step, it is now essential for central bankers and governments to make it abundantly clear which types of institution they are prepared effectively to underwrite, and what behaviour they will demand of those institutions in exchange. Although much will depend on international agreements, there is still a great deal that national authorities can do

to contribute to an abatement of inflation. But, as Mr Taylor points out, it is not unemployment alone which determines the rise in wages (and ultimately prices), but the excess demand for labour.

In the 1968-72 period the excess demand for labour was still much less than it has been in earlier periods—despite the high unemployment. It would, therefore, have been unreasonable to have expected the rise in wages to have noticeably declined.

Although Mr Taylor refrains in his book from drawing large conclusions about the direction of economic policy, there are some vital implications. The first is that the confidence with which some observers have said that demand restraint will not succeed in curbing inflation is not really justified.

The second is that an excess

preoccupation with the unemployment figures is misleading.

Estimates of labour hoarding are needed to obtain an understanding of the demand for labour. One of the drawbacks of Mr Taylor's method of calculation is that it would not be able to derive these until some months after the event because the method depends on the identification of productivity trends.

The third is that undue reliance on incomes policy is unwise. In a separate analysis of the effectiveness of incomes policies Mr Taylor says that the issue is "not completely clear". But the concluding sentence in the book reads, "Adverse results on inflation may well have resulted as soon as the controls were relaxed". This sounds highly pertinent.

Tim Congdon

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Manufacturers of **CRISTAL** Ceramic Wall Tiles

PROGRESS IN A VERY DIFFICULT YEAR

	1974	1973
Turnover	£33,170	26,876
Profit before tax	4,588	4,291
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	2,189	2,450
Ordinary Dividends - Interim and Final (maximum permitted)	5,019p	4,6375p
Earnings per share	40.6p	45.5p

POINTS FROM THE CIRCULATED REVIEW OF THE CHAIRMAN, MR. DEREK H. JOHNSON

- * Rate of progress achieved during 1972/3 unfortunately not maintained in current year which, in the U.K., has seen an energy crisis, a national emergency, controls on margins and dividends, and a serious shortage of labour.
- * Capital programme continuing with a further £3.3M projected for UK factories.
- * Overseas sales nearly 55% of total. Almost half of Group profit before tax now comes from overseas subsidiaries and associates.
- * Current demand continues at a high level both at home and overseas.

HIGHGATE TILE WORKS - TUNSTALL - STAFFS.



1970

MTE MTE LIMITED

Results for the Year Ended 31st May, 1974

- ★ Pre-tax profits up by 41% on sales increase of 31%.
- ★ Exports increased by 41%.
- ★ Orders received during the year totalled £5,480,000.
- ★ Forward orders up by 2½ times from £700,000 to £1,750,000.
- ★ Materials supplies continue to limit production but signs that position is improving.
- ★ Dividend increased by 31% subject to Treasury consent.

Year to 31st May	
1974	1973
unaudited	
Sales	£4,430,000
Trading profit	£666,000
Profit after Loan Stock Interest but before Tax	£624,000
Dividends (including tax credit)	23%
Order book	£1,750,000
	£439,000
	£481,000
	173%
	£700,000

MTE LIMITED
PROGRESS ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA, ESSEX SS9 5LS

FINANCIAL NEWS

Serck third-quarter profits soar by 49 per cent to £670,000

By David Mott

In what will effectively be its last quarterly report Serck, the Birmingham engineering group, reflects very clearly the dramatic improvement which has taken place in industry since the end of the three-day week.

In the nine months to June 30 net profits before tax were almost 6 per cent down at £15m, having been 37.5 per cent lower at half-way (after the reorganized working) and 8 per cent down after three months. Quarterly by quarter, profits were £470,000 (£510,000 in the first, £10,000 (£260,000) in the second three months, but rose 49 per cent to £670,000 in the third quarter.

Another important factor in the group's fortunes has been interest charges. In the first three months they were more than doubled; this rise was reduced to 85 per cent in

This final figure is described by the company as "satisfactory" as the aftermath of the three-day week and the overall ban in engineering were still being felt in April. The improvement has come solely from the months of May and June. In the current quarter all Serck factories are busy, but in common with most of the industry, the company is suffering from extended material delivery times and, in some places, a shortage of manpower.

Having issued a quarterly report for four years the company says that with fairly long production and order cycles they are not particularly helpful. Consequently from next year it will revert to two reports annually. In another rationalization move the group has sold its 27 per cent stake in Dikkers, a Dutch valve maker which has been making substantial losses.

six months, but the figure for nine months was back over 90 per cent to £850,000. After tax the "net" profit fell from £730,000 to £590,000 while the annual rate of earnings was down from 3.2p to 2.6p a share. Sales were £31m (£23.5m).

Having issued a quarterly report for four years the company says that with fairly long production and order cycles they are not particularly helpful. Consequently from next year it will revert to two reports annually. In another rationalization move the group has sold its 27 per cent stake in Dikkers, a Dutch valve maker which has been making substantial losses.

Riding on the crest of the 18-month-old boom for steel stockholders, James Austin Steel Holdings has easily beaten its forecast of a £500,000 taxable profit for its maiden year with a leap from £367,000 to £733,000. Turnover increased from £4.09m to £6.52m, while on net profits of £349,000, against £227,000, the dividend is 5.14p gross (3.5p net). Earnings per share rose 49 per cent to 11.64p.

The board points out that the comparative figures are those of James Austin & Sons (Dewsbury) and its subsidiaries which were acquired by the present company on September 13.

Mr A. Y. Wilson, the chairman, comments that the forecast profit has been substantially exceeded thanks to extremely buoyant trading conditions which prevailed in the latter half of the year, and, to a lesser degree, the benefit of a further increase in the price of steel. The current year's trading has opened well and it is expected that demand at the main division, steel stockholding and Metal Stores (48p) advanced.

In a further deal Rix has acquired from Columbus Trust, which has 60 per cent of Whitehouse, seven Hampshire and South Wales garage properties for £597,000 cash. Rix was advised by Edward Barnes in the transactions. Whitehouse by Midland and Northern Securities and Columbus, a private company, by Barclay Bank (London & International).

Stock markets

Sharp rebound in share prices

The first day of the new Account in the equity market was welcomed with a widespread rally in share prices. Property, bank and oil shares all managed to move higher, and most of the major industrialists put on a few pence. Turnover left much to be desired, however, and the gains in share prices were trimmed at the close when interest faded.

The Times index rose by 1.68 to 93.18, while the FT ordinary share index regained 6.1 of its recent loss to close at 233.2 having touched 239.4 in late afternoon. Recorded bargains, at 5.34p, were "disappointing" for the first day of a new Account.

A wide range of factors were quoted in explanation for yesterday's rally, but most sources ended by agreeing that some recovery was only to be expected after the past disastrous fortnight. It was the abruptness

of the recovery which caught out the jobbers.

With the autumn election now regarded as almost certain, the City is heartened by the hopes of improvement in the Conservatives' chances and also by Mr Wilson's gentler tone on nationalization. But the underlying nervousness remains.

Shipbuilding issues had a good day, on the argument that state takeovers have rarely been bad for share prices. Swan Hunter put on 4p to 73p, Vosper 1p to 59p, and John Brown 2p to 83p. Also firmer were Vickers at 102p, with Wm. Wm. Hudsons improving to 42p on consideration of their stake in Vickers. GKN (149p) and Tube Investments (192p) also strengthened.

ICI (195p), Unilever (269p), Courtaulds (97p) and Beecham Grp (182p) closed with gains in the 5p range. Consumer stocks, too, responded

strong, particularly in the morning. It was helped by news reports that the Bank of England had arranged a substantial sale of government stock to Arab governments, bypassing the market. Although these reports are completely unfounded, it gave interested investors a pretext for buying.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord (and par values)	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
James Austin Steel (25p)	Fin 3.0	*	16/10	5.14	3.3
Chas Baynes (10p)	Int 1.49	1.42	21/9	—	3.3
Bolts Textiles (5p)	1.83	1.75	—	1.83	1.75
Al. Cohen (20p)	3.00	3.28	1/10	5.85	3.28
Gross Cash (25p)	Int 1.15	1.11	—	—	—
Hamsterley Hides (Int)	3.16	3.16	7/10	—	—
Hogg Robinson Grp (25p)	Fin 3.17	3.97	5/10	5.4	5.07
Howard Tenens (20p)	Fin 1.31	1.25	1/10	2.36	2.25
Kitsion's Int (25p)	Fin 2.87	2.78	—	3.92	3.78
Letraset Int (10p)	Fin 1.28	1.22	1/10	1.77	1.58
Longton Transport (25p)	Fin 2.74	2.75	—	3.83	3.75
MTE Ltd (25p)	Fin 1.51	1.31	1/10	2.3	1.75
Midland (25p)	Fin 1.72	1.47	1/10	4.37	4.27
Spirella Grp (25p)	Int 5.72	5.72	6/9	—	5.0
Unidare (25p)	Int 8.75	8.75	8/10	13.98	12.5
West's Canad Inv (25p)	Fin 9.68	8.75	8/10	—	—

* Made public September, 1973. + Adjusted for scrip. \$ Cents a share.

Spirella 32pc ahead with more to come

In spite of the three-day week the Spirella Group's first half year again shows a rise, this time 32 per cent to £891,000. This compares with 31 per cent to £1.03m in the second half of last year, and 50 per cent in the first.

Over the whole of last year profits grew by 47 per cent to £1.7m, and Mr J. Spender, the chairman, expects 1974 to show a continuation of the last five years' trend, and bring a significant improvement in profits and earnings per share.

Turnover is up from £12.7m to £14m, while available profits are £443,000, against £340,000. Earnings a share have grown from 3.5p to 4p, and net assets a share from 66p to 70.5p. The board has taken advantage of the new relaxation of dividend restraint, and shareholders will receive an interim raised from 1.47p gross (1.03p net) to 1.72p (1.15p).

In other words, you'll learn how to run a business for yourself.

Your idea could be very simple. But we'd like you to show us a prototype, or give us clear details before choosing the final eleven.

Don't worry, there aren't any strings attached.

All it costs you is a minimum rent.

After all, what better place to start a new industry than in a new city?

Have you ever seen a fortune made from an idea you had years ago?

Chances are you didn't have the money to develop it thoroughly on your own.

Large companies rarely look twice at other people's ideas. And if they do, they're the ones to rake in the profits.

We're looking for eleven people just like you.

Engineers. Scientists. Or anyone with an original, potentially profitable new product idea—determined to get it off the ground.

We can offer you a place to work in Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire at a workable rent.

A panel of experts will be on hand with advice on how to finance your project. To help you in marketing. To advise you on the legal and accounting side. And whether or not you should look for a partner.

In other words, you'll learn how to run a business for yourself.

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If you want to know more, write for an application form to: Bob Hill, Creation of New Enterprises, Milton Keynes Development Corporation, Wavendon Tower, Wavendon, Milton Keynes MK17 8LX. Or telephone Milton Keynes (0908) 74000.

CO **NE**

Marketed under the IFIC umbrella in November 1974, Longton Transport (Holdings) has shown rapid growth and in the year to March 31 last taxable profits bounded by 43.8 per cent from £624,000 to £898,000 from turnover up 29.5 per cent from £11.2m to £14.49m. The total dividend is being raised from 3.75p to 3.93p with a final payment of 2.74p which shareholders can elect to take in shares or cash.

Tiger Oats has 25 pc stake in J. Bibby

Following the purchase of a further 90,000 £1 ordinary shares in J. Bibby & Sons by its offshoot Exeter Sales (London), Tiger Oats & National Millings, the South African-based group, now has 2,050,650 Bibby shares or 25.03 per cent of the issued equity. Last March Tiger Oats bought over 23 per cent of this stake from Slater Walker

Securities for some £2.7m.

Later this month Bibby are due to publish their first half results to June 30 and shareholders have already been told that these will be significantly lower than the £1.03m for the same period of 1973.

The Dow Jones industrial average picked up 7.82 to 760.40 and the New York Stock Exchange index was up 0.38 to 1,145.53. Advances led declines 773 to 550. Volume was 11,230,000 shares.

Longton Transport

The £600,000 agreed cash deal in which S. Lyles, which makes woolen spun carpet yarn, was taking over the company's spinning and semi-finishing units in the early stages, Aug. 27, 1974, has been completed.

Longton Transport's 25.03 per cent stake in the company has been removed from the board of the company's banking subsidiary.

Lyles-Stonehouse deal off

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MARKET REPORTS

Foreign Exchange

U.S buying of sterling

of \$2,360 after New York's opening and dealers reported demand from the United States. The closing rate was \$2,385, down 15 points on the day.

The yen, in contrast, fell below the 360 level at 300.075 in the dollar after 300.375 in early deal and a previous London close of 299.75.

Although there was no evidence of a support operation from Tokyo, a move was not ruled out as there were other apparent reasons for the yen decline being stemmed.

German mark improved to 2,5575 to the dollar from 2,5750 after Eurodollar rates eased and dragged the spot dollar down with them.

Gold closed at \$1534, down \$23 on the day.

Zinc force majeure

Frankfurt, Aug 5.—Metallgesellschaft AG said it declared force majeure on 20 per cent of its zinc output for loss of the day, although the Board of Directors had agreed to assist the market in a small way through purchases of treasury bills directly from the houses.

"Calling" at the outer was light and rates for secured loans had started in the region of 11 per cent quickly came off to 10.5 per cent. The market then stepped gradually away to about 10 per cent.

Rates then reversed the trend, according to 10-10 per cent, but it back again after the official intervention with final balances down to 10 per cent. There were no identifiable factors to move the market one way or the other.

Shipment of Straits refined tin from Penang in July were 7,479 tonnes, against 5,966 tonnes in June, the Straits Trading Co in Singapore.—Reuter

Commodities

Index falls 11.8

Reuters commodity index fell 11.8 to 1,251.5 yesterday. The main factors in the drop were a fall in prices of coffee, sugar, zinc, lead and copper.

The index, which a year ago stood at 1,134.2, is based on the weighted average of 17 primary commodities (1931 equals 100).

COPPER wire rose, while lead, tin, zinc, coffee, sugar and cotton stocks fell.

At the close, cash metal was 1.6 per cent lower, but a general demand which dealers thought was in the United States last week, had less effect on Friday, and had no effect on sentiment. Afternoon, lead fell 1.4 per cent, tin 1.3 per cent, zinc 1.2 per cent, coffee 1.1 per cent, sugar 1.0 per cent, cotton 0.9 per cent, and cotton stocks 0.8 per cent.

Deliveries cannot be made up at a later date, it added.—Reuter.

Penang tin shipments increase in July

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The Times

Share Indices

The Times share index for 1974 (base June 3, 1969) original base date June 3, 1969.

Index Date Index Previous

1. Financial 561.2 544.0 531.37

2. Industrial 561.2 547.0 530.32

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London and Regional Market Prices

Widespread recovery

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Aug 5. Dealings End, Aug 16. § Contango Day, Aug 19. Settlement Day, Aug 28.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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* Adjusted for tax changes. + Ex dividend. = Ex all. & Forecast dividend. ^ Corrected price. & Interim payment passed. # Price at suspension. \$ Dividend and rights exclude a special payment. B Bid for company. - Pre-merger figures. x Forecast earnings. * Ex profit distribution. v ex rights. = Ex scrip or share swap. + Tax free. } Price adj for law dealing. . No significant data.

Women's Appointments So on pages 11 & 21

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